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Personally, I am utterly unable to appreciate or sympathize with the claim that a ruthless war is the most effective war. It fell to my lot once to make a study of the Thirty Years War with special reference to the participation in it of Gustavus Adolphus. His maxim "The best Christian is the best soldier," formed the basis for the rigid discipline enforced in his armies while he remained in command and there is no evidence that it interfered in the slightest with his military success. Lord Roberts until 1904 said a week or two before his death, "Let us fight against the enemy in such a manner that we shall earn not only his respect, but

also his friendship." The cultivation of sentiments like those here referred to, the fostering of a broad and liberal education on firm moral foundations, preservation of freedom of thought and expression, with due regard to the demands of great national emergencies, are to my mind important issues which no university library or similar institution working for the moral, and intellectual uplift of the people, can afford to ignore, not only in its endeavors to end the war successfully, but in all efforts tending towards the restoration of orderly and normal conditions among men.

### IS CAMP LIBRARY SERVICE WORTH WHILE?

BY ADAM STROHM, *Librarian, Detroit Public Library (Camp Librarian, Camp Gordon, Ga.)*

The question should, I think, be considered from two points of view: Is it worth while to the men in the army to have these libraries; and is it worth while to the camp librarian to give service in the camps?

As far as the first consideration is concerned, I hold that the presence of camp libraries in the camps is justified if we bring to these camps the professional skill and ability which we possess, an ability that is not available through any other organization and never has been. For that purpose it is necessary that all good librarians feel under obligation to volunteer or accept a call from headquarters. It would mean in connection with that, that not only should they accept this call but should give a reasonable permanency to their service. The replacement idea in the camp library service is not a success.

In a general way, these camp libraries or the camp library service is justified only if every policy that we lay out, if every effort that we give to it, is for the national purpose for which these camps are organized. In this work we should forget not

only the possible glory that may be in the assignment that is given to us, possibly the reflection that comes to our home institutions; we should forget our identity altogether and simply approach the whole problem from the national point of view. And in that regard I differ with some camp librarians. I think that the camp library is not like a regular city or county library. It is a special library for a special purpose.

The statement has already been made as to the necessity of technical books—all the books that are needed for the development and understanding of military arts—and the need of these books is too obvious for further comment. Add to these all the books available on flowers, rocks, photography, books on fine arts; but those are the incidental interests, those are the incidental happenings in giving this service. The big need, the real need, is to get books of analytical power and devote our skill to the training of men for a special purpose.

It has been repeatedly said and it has just the same force now as it had six months ago, that the only purpose of this whole activity is to win the war, which is

true. But we have, I think, progressed in the last few months a little bit beyond the mere military aspect of this wonderful experience that we are going through. All at once America has discovered Europe. We realize that back of all those international policies and happenings and military events there are motives and intrigues, all of which we ought to know. We realize that underneath the flashing events of military tragedies and victories there is a war underneath the very war, and conscious of those facts, the American nation and the young soldiers are going forward in a spirit of idealism. If there ever was any case of a national lifting up of spirit toward idealism, it is certainly true about America's entry into the war. Notwithstanding the faults that may at one time have been found in the Allies' claims, truly now we are joined in something that quickens the pulses of all. Information is available now; books have recently appeared that give the underlying causes, that furnish the background, and analyze the big epoch now unrolling itself. Those are the books and those are the magazines that above everything else should receive the attention and the understanding of the officers and soldiers. In this way our professional personal influence can do a great deal to arouse a spirit, a faith that is not available just now through any other agency in the camps.

The situation as to the boys who are not perhaps conscious of the real ideals of democracy is sometimes a most bewildering, helpless thing in these camps. In so far as they can realize that out of the mud and blood will arise a new social order, a new Europe, a new world, they will go into the supreme test in a spirit of confidence and righteousness, different from that of any other brother belligerent.

Now is it worth while to the librarian? The answer to that is perhaps quite difficult to articulate. Is it worth while to be alive at all just now? Is it worth while to be in your country's service, humble as it is? Is it worth while to have this ex-

traordinary privilege, as I feel it, of working with men, with men exclusively? In that respect I think we have something to learn in our public library service. Is it not possible so to arrange our service that the attractions that in a way are available in the camp libraries for men can be introduced there, the freedom, the informality of things? There, of course, we are all alike; we are all brothers, all equally muddy occasionally. The librarian is not anything like a controlling master. He wanders about among the boys in khaki; he is called across the floor for a little information on this and that, and there is absolutely no red tape or stiffness about it. As a matter of fact, this service is one of working the thing out together rather than of anything else.

Something may also be said in anticipation of the status of things after the war is over. Surely, when these soldiers are returning from their duty abroad and coming back to civil life, the recollection of the attention, of the consideration, that was given them from the country, from the librarians, will help a great deal toward supporting the libraries. It will also place public service on a higher plane than it has ever been before. Indeed, one of the benefits of the war will be the recognition of public service as an honor. Service to his city, state and country should be exacted from every one worthy the name of a man. You very women may, indeed, demand that every man should give some part of his life to the service of his country.

Something has been said about the employment of men and women in our camps. I am not going to enter into any argument about that. One or two things I care to say about it. In the first place, I do not think it is very important to discuss whether it be a man or a woman. A man librarian and a woman librarian will make a success in the camp as in any other library if they are good librarians, not because they are men or women.

Yet another thing I want to say, speaking for myself and I think speaking for the camp librarians as far as I know them,

that we are in this work because we cannot help ourselves, because opportunity has been offered to us; we are here for such usefulness and service as we can give. And if the executive committee or if the War Department or any other authorized authority should determine that it will be for the best interests of the service that women replace the men, I for one would withdraw most cheerfully and I think the rest of us would do so and wish our colleagues the very best of luck.

Indeed, we are fighting, we are working, we are exerting ourselves now for some of the finest ideals there ever were. And if democracy means anything just now it does not mean any unkindly competition. We are going to work this out; we are going to win out by coöperation and nothing else, and that will be true, I think, about the library war service, which is, perhaps, more intelligently applied than any other civilian service we can think of. The whole civilian activity is really too large

for competition. I think we all realize there is not any especial "glory" connected with it. We are dressed up in uniforms but our uniforms are never going to have any memories of military valor connected with them. We are fully conscious of the propriety that no service star should ever be hung in our honor. But in a deeper sense and especially perhaps on a wonderful day like this Fourth of July, one would like to cherish the hope that all people who have sincerely and unselfishly given something of themselves for the promotion of a great cause like ours, whether they are the women in the kitchens, the mechanics in the factories, the civilian workers in the Y. M. C. A. huts, or the camp librarians—may we not hope that in so far as we have heartened and quickened the spirit that reaches now from land to land, we have perhaps each one of us added a little star in that firmament of light, hope and justice to which an anxious world is looking up.

### THE UNITED STATES BOYS' WORKING RESERVE

BY H. W. WELLS, *Associate Director, United States Boys' Working Reserve*

The United States Boys' Working Reserve is a section of the United States Employment Service of the Department of Labor. Its purpose is to enroll, to train, and to supervise at their work all boys who are sixteen years of age and over and under twenty-one years of age and are physically fit for the work to be undertaken, with a primary purpose of rehabilitating farms that have been denuded by the war emergency of their supply of adult labor. The fourth item of its program is to inspect the farms where boys are to be employed in order that the living and working conditions on these farms shall conform to certain definite standards set up by the Reserve.

There are approximately two million boys of Reserve age in the United States who are in school or are occupied at labor

that is seasonal or that is not essential to the winning of the war. This is the source of labor supply with which the Reserve immediately deals. Of the two million boys under consideration approximately 500,000 are in the high schools of the United States.

The Reserve is organized into state units with a federal state director in charge of every state unit; and into county units with a county director in charge of every county unit. Federal state directors are federal employes and are appointed directly from Washington by the Secretary of Labor. County directors are appointed by federal state directors and are commissioned by them with their commissions countersigned from Washington.

Into every high school of the United States the Reserve proposes to place, and